



TOWN OF ERIE NEWS FLASH

News & Announcements

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Board of Trustees Retreat Update #3: Public Safety

This is the third in a series of four updates. The first focused on population forecasts; the second on debt management and the fourth will focus on communication & transparency.

The members of the Erie Police Department do a great job maintaining a safe environment. We know this for many reasons. But you may not have heard that this week, [Safewise](#) ranked Erie, Colorado as one of the 100 safest cities in America (#63 on the list). Add this to the fact that last year, Erie made multiple Top 10 lists of safest places to live in Colorado.

Yes - Erie Police do a great job day in and day out, and as the Board and I learned during our retreat, they could not do it without your support and that of our community.

Did you know that volunteers working for the Erie Police Department contributed over 887 hours of service in 2014? It's true. For those of you who don't know, the Volunteers in Police Service or VIPS program is staffed by community members who are willing to give their time and talents to help the Police Department's various roles. 9 new volunteers joined the VIPS program for a total of 14. How gratifying to learn about how our staff and volunteers are working together to cultivate new opportunities for citizen involvement. To all of you I say "Thank You." And to Chief Vasquez who implemented the VIPS program I congratulate you on a job well done. Your focus on community policing continues to serve Erie well.

Did you know that in 2014 Erie PD hosted the Department's first-ever Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) providing an opportunity for 25 citizens and volunteers to participate in a two-day training program? It's true. Participants learned about disaster preparedness for a variety of hazards that may impact our community. Through classroom training and hands on exercises, our friends, neighbors and co-workers now know how to assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to assist. Thank you to all who have participated



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to date and I encourage others who have an interest to contact the PD.

Did you know that the Citizen Police Academy graduated its largest class since implementation in 1999? It's true. In 2014, 20 citizens graduated from this 10 week course designed to provide a medium for citizens to understand why police do the things they do; encourage citizens to become active in volunteering to help police their own neighborhoods and to heighten citizen ownership in the Erie Police Department. Congratulations graduates!

So the next time Erie is ranked as a safest community, be sure to thank our officers. But also be sure to thank our friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Thank you to all who participate in VIPS! Thank you to all who have been trained through CERT! And thank you to all of our Citizen Police Academy graduates.

To learn all about the Erie Police Department's achievements and accomplishments, view the [2014 Annual Report](#).

Sincerely, Mayor Tina Harris